

In re Patent Application of:  
**MARIAUD ET AL.**  
Serial No. 09/989,317  
Filing Date: NOVEMBER 20, 2001

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In the Claims:

Claims 1-4 (Cancelled).

5. (Currently amended) A computer system comprising:  
a master apparatus; and  
a slave apparatus for communicating with said master  
apparatus and communicating via ~~the~~ a universal serial bus (USB)  
protocol, said slave apparatus comprising  
a sending/receiving circuit for sending and  
receiving binary information to and from said master  
apparatus and supplying status signals based thereon,  
a plurality of state latches and control circuitry  
cooperating therewith for receiving the status signals  
from said sending/receiving circuit and supplying state  
signals of said sending/receiving circuit based  
thereon,  
a microprocessor for processing applications of  
said slave apparatus and also for processing the binary  
information received by said sending/receiving circuit,  
and  
an interruption state latch and a control circuit  
cooperating therewith for supplying an interruption  
signal ~~when said sending/receiving circuit has received~~  
once the start of a new message ~~after the start of the~~  
~~new message~~ has been acknowledged and recorded by said

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sending/receiving circuit when the microprocessor is unavailable.

6. (Previously presented) The computer system of Claim 5 wherein said control circuit for controlling said interruption state latch comprises at least one logic circuit for receiving the status signals from said sending/receiving circuit and setting said interruption state latch to a predetermined logic level to indicate a microprocessor interruption request.

7. (Currently amended) The computer system of Claim 5 wherein said control circuitry for controlling said state latches prevents the binary information from said ~~microprocessor~~ sending/receiving circuit from being written into said plurality of state latches during receipt of the start of the new message and during the presence of the interruption signal.

8. (Previously presented) The computer system of Claim 5 wherein said master apparatus comprises a central processing unit.

9. (Previously presented) The computer system of Claim 5 wherein said slave apparatus comprises a computer peripheral device.

10. (Previously presented) The computer system of Claim 5 further comprising a cable connecting said master apparatus and said slave apparatus.

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11. (Currently amended) A computer system comprising:  
a master apparatus; and  
a slave apparatus for communicating with said master  
apparatus and comprising

a sending/receiving circuit for sending and  
receiving binary information to and from said master  
apparatus and supplying status signals based thereon,

a plurality of state latches and control circuitry  
cooperating therewith for receiving the status signals  
from said sending/receiving circuit and supplying state  
signals of said sending/receiving circuit based  
thereon,

a microprocessor for processing applications of  
said slave apparatus and also for processing the binary  
information received by said sending/receiving circuit,  
and

an interruption state latch for supplying an  
interruption signal ~~when said sending/receiving circuit~~  
~~has received once~~ the start of a new message ~~after the~~  
~~start of the new message~~ has been acknowledged and  
recorded by said sending/receiving circuit when said  
microprocessor is unavailable,

said control circuitry for controlling said state  
latches preventing the binary information from said  
~~microprocessor~~ sending/receiving circuit from being  
written into said plurality of state latches during

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receipt of the start of the new message and during the presence of the interruption signal.

12. (Currently amended) The computer system of Claim 11 wherein said master apparatus and said slave apparatus communicate via ~~the~~ a universal serial bus (USB) protocol.

13. (Previously presented) The computer system of Claim 11 further comprising at least one logic circuit for receiving the status signals from said sending/receiving circuit and setting said interruption state latch to a predetermined logic level to indicate a microprocessor interruption request.

14. (Previously presented) The computer system of Claim 11 wherein said master apparatus comprises a central processing unit.

15. (Previously presented) The computer system of Claim 11 wherein said slave apparatus comprises a computer peripheral.

16. (Previously presented) The computer system of Claim 11 further comprising a cable connecting said master apparatus and said slave apparatus.

17. (Currently amended) A slave apparatus for communicating with a master apparatus via ~~the~~ a universal serial bus (USB) protocol, said slave apparatus comprising:

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a sending/receiving circuit for sending and receiving binary information to and from the master apparatus and supplying status signals based thereon;

a plurality of state latches and control circuitry cooperating therewith for receiving the status signals from said sending/receiving circuit and supplying state signals of said sending/receiving circuit based thereon;

a microprocessor for processing applications of the slave apparatus and also for processing the binary information received by said sending/receiving circuit; and

an interruption state latch and a control circuit cooperating therewith for supplying an interruption signal ~~when said sending/receiving circuit has received~~ once the start of a new message ~~after the start of the new message~~ has been acknowledged and recorded by said sending/receiving circuit when said microprocessor is unavailable.

18. (Previously presented) The slave apparatus of Claim 17 wherein said control circuit for controlling said interruption state latch comprises at least one logic circuit for receiving the status signals from said sending/receiving circuit and setting said interruption state latch to a predetermined logic level to indicate a microprocessor interruption request.

19. (Previously presented) The slave apparatus of Claim 17 wherein said control circuitry for controlling said state latches prevents the binary information from said microprocessor

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from being written into said plurality of state latches during receipt of the start of the new message and during the presence of the interruption signal.

20. (Currently amended) A method of processing interruptions in a slave apparatus for communicating with a master apparatus via the a universal serial bus (USB) protocol, the method comprising:

sending and receiving binary information to and from the master apparatus via a sending/receiving circuit and supplying status signals based thereon;

generating state signals of the sending/receiving circuit based upon the status signals;

processing applications of the slave apparatus and also processing the binary information received by the sending/receiving circuit; and

supplying an interruption signal ~~when the sending/receiving circuit has received~~ once the start of a new message ~~after the start of the new message has been acknowledged and recorded by the sending/receiving circuit~~ when the microprocessor is unavailable.

21. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 20 wherein supplying the interruption signal comprises setting an interruption state latch to a predetermined logic level based upon the status signals to indicate a microprocessor interruption request.

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22. (Currently amended) A method of processing interruptions in a slave apparatus for communicating with a master apparatus via ~~the~~ a universal serial bus (USB) protocol, the method comprising:

generating a state signal indicating the end of a message;

detecting a start of a new message from the master apparatus and producing a start of message state signal;

recording data from the start of the new message;

acknowledging receipt of the start of the new message;

generating a signal indicating completion of recordation of the data from the start of the new message; and

generating an interruption signal in the presence of the state signal indicating the end of the message, the start of message state signal, and the signal indicating completion of recordation of the data from the start of the new message when the microprocessor is unavailable.